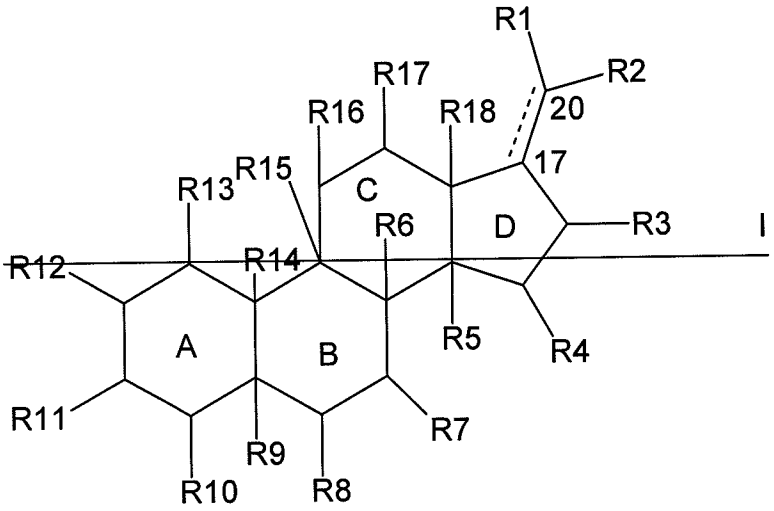
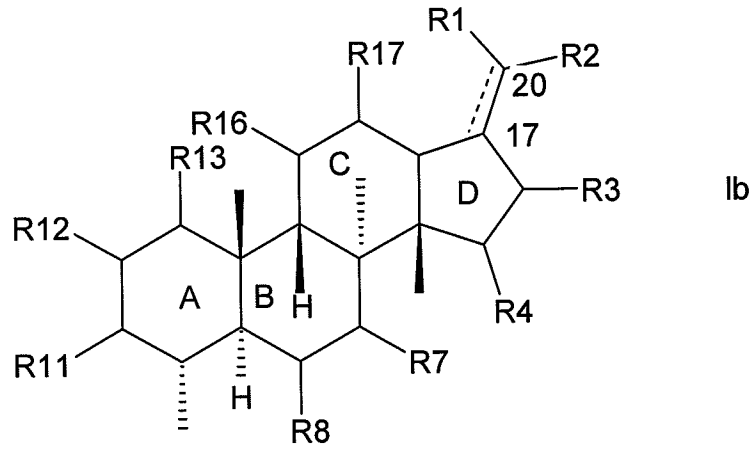
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A compound according to formula [[I]] Ib

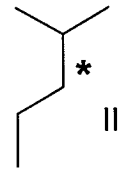




~~wherein the fused rings A, B, C and D are independently saturated or partially unsaturated;~~

wherein the bond between C-17 and C-20 is depicted with a full and a dotted line to indicate that said bond can be a single or a double bond;

wherein R1 represents a ~~straight or branched, saturated or unsaturated C_{1-10} alkyl;~~ a moiety of formula II



wherein the carbon-carbon bond denoted "*" is a single or double bond;

R2 represents –COOH or $-(Z)_n-(NR-Z)_p-N(R)_2$ or $C(O)-(Z)_n-(NR-Z)_p-N(R)_2$, wherein n is 0 or 1 and p is an integer from 1 and 5;

each Z independently represents straight or branched hydrocarbon diradical, optionally substituted with C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkenyl, C_{1-6}alkynyl, hydroxy, alkoxy, amino, C_{1-6}aminoalkoxy, C_{1-6}aminoalkyl, C_{1-6}aminoalkylaminocarbonyl, C_{1-6}alkylC_{3-8}cycloalkyl or C_{1-6}alkylheteroaryl;

each R independently represents hydrogen or C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}aminoalkyl, C_{1-6}aminoalkoxy or C_{1-6}aminoalkylaminocarbonyl, all of which are optionally substituted with alkyl or C_{1-6}aminoalkyl;

provided that at least one Z is substituted with C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-6}alkenyl, C_{1-6}alkynyl, hydroxy, alkoxy, C_{1-6}aminoalkoxy, C_{1-6}aminoalkyl, C_{1-6}aminoalkylaminocarbonyl, C_{1-6}alkylC_{3-8}cycloalkyl or C_{1-6}alkylheteroaryl, or at least one R is different from hydrogen;

R3 represents hydrogen, halogen or O-R19, wherein R19 represents hydrogen, $-SO_3$, C_{1-6}alkyl or C_{1-6}acyl;

each of R4, R7, R8, R12, R13, R16 and R17 independently represent hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, or -O-acyl;

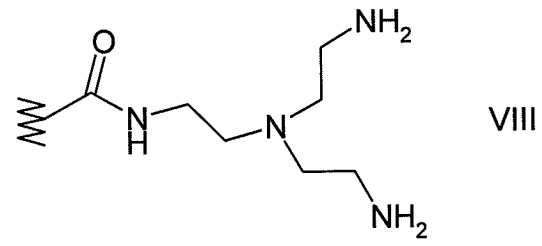
~~R10 represents hydrogen, methyl, halogen, hydroxy, $-OSO_3$, or -O-acyl;~~

R11 represents hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, $-OSO_3H$, ~~$-OSO_3$,~~ -O-acyl, $-(Z)_n-(NR-Z)_p-N(R)_2$ or $C(O)-(Z)_n-(NR-Z)_p-N(R)_2$;

~~each of R5, R6, R9, R14, R15 and R18 independently represent hydrogen or methyl or are each independently absent when one of the fused rings, A, B, C and D are unsaturated so as to complete the valency of the carbon atom at that site;~~

~~provided that at least one, of R2, and R11, is $-(Z)_n-(NR-Z)_p-N(R)_2$ or $C(O)-(Z)_n-(NR-Z)_p-N(R)_2$;~~

wherein R2 and/or R11 represents a moiety of the formula VIII, ~~IX,~~ X, XI, XII, XIII, XVI, XVII, XVIII, XIX, ~~XX, XXI,~~ XXII, or XXIII



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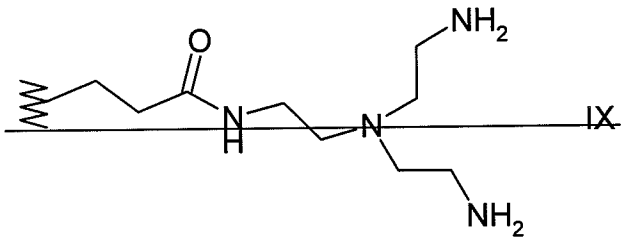

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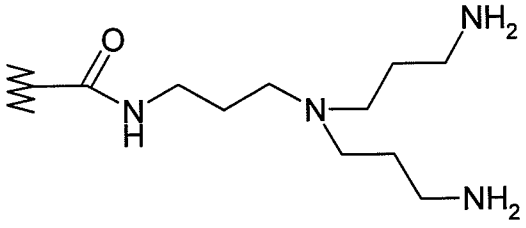

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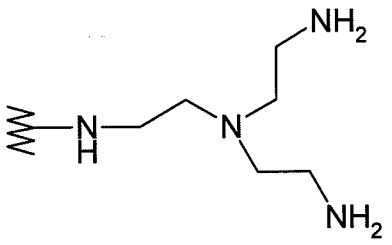

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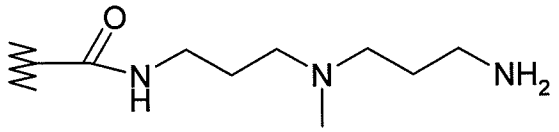

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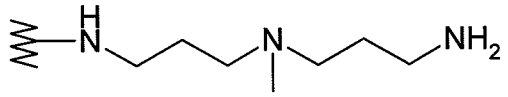

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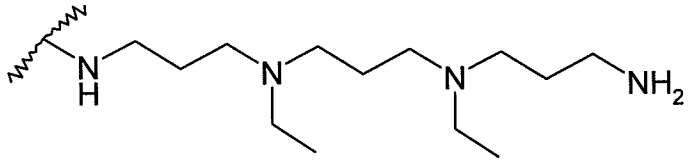

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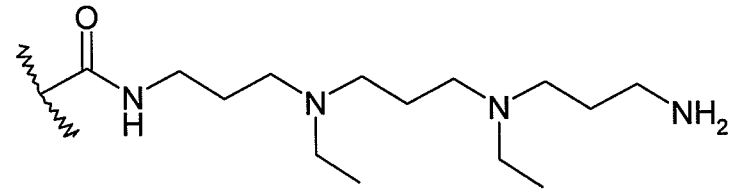
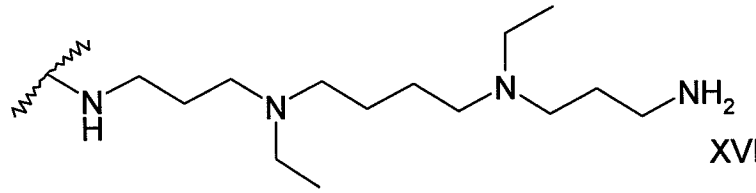
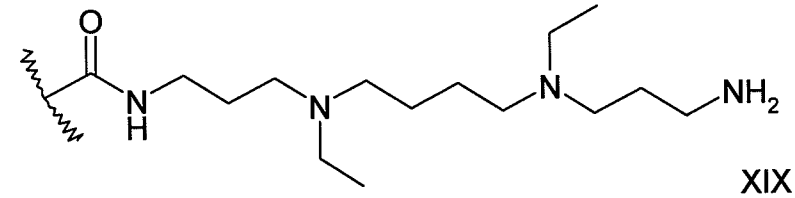


XVII



XVIII



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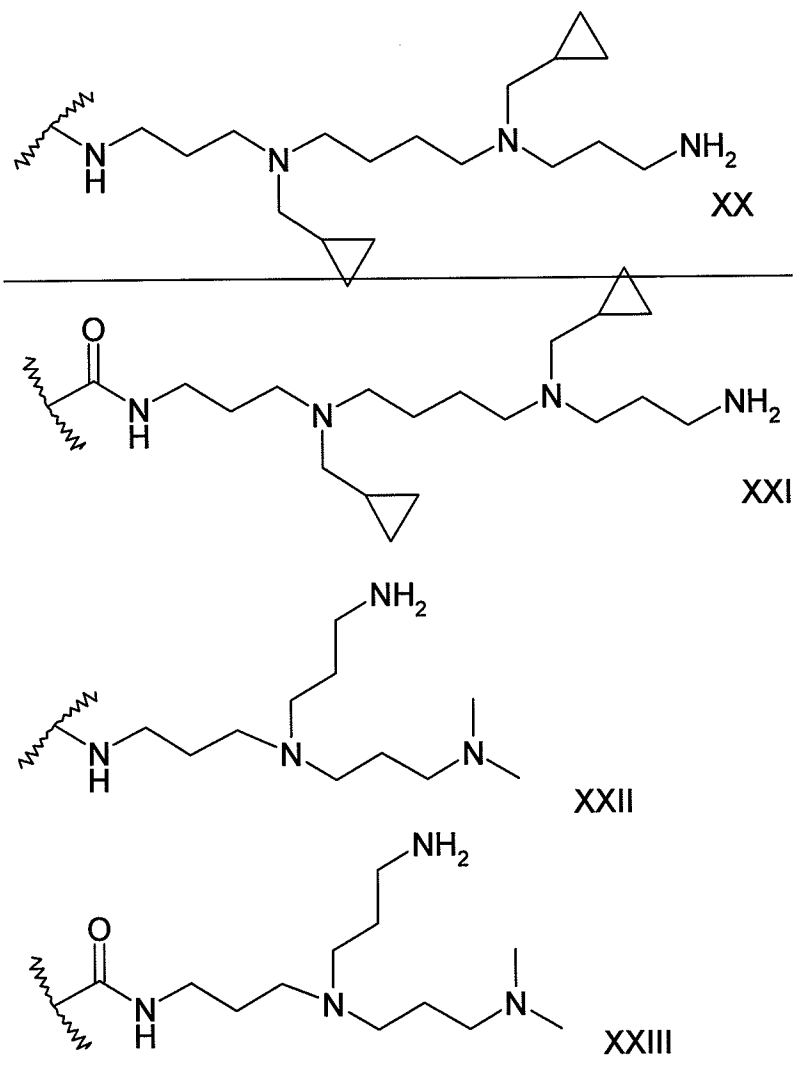

and pharmaceutically acceptable salts or esters thereof.

2.-5. (Cancelled).

6. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 1, wherein R19 represents C_{1-6}alkyl or C_{1-6}acyl.

7. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 1, wherein R7, R11 and/or R16 represent OH.

8. (Currently Amended) A compound according to claim 1, wherein R11 represents ~~–OSO$_3$~~ –OSO_3H.

9. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 1, wherein R11 represents –O-acyl.

10. (Cancelled).

11. (Cancelled).

12. (Currently Amended) A compound according to claim 1 [[10]], wherein R2 represents $-(Z)_n-(NR-Z)_p-N(R)_2$ or $C(O)-(Z)_n-(NR-Z)_p-N(R)_2$.

13. (Original) A compound according to claim 12, wherein R7 and R11 are both hydroxy.

14. (Original) A compound according to claim 12, wherein R11 and R16 are both hydroxy.

15.-18. (Cancelled).

19. (Currently Amended) A compound according to claim [[1]] 10, wherein R11 represents $-(Z)_n-(NR-Z)_p-N(R)_2$ or $C(O)-(Z)_n-(NR-Z)_p-N(R)_2$.

20.-25. (Cancelled).

26. (Currently Amended) A compound according to claim 1 selected from the group consisting of

21-N-{2'-[bis(2'-aminoethyl)amino]ethyl}-17R,20S,24,25-tetrahydrofusid-21-amide,

21-N-{2'-[bis(2'-aminoethyl)amino]ethyl}-11-desoxy-17R,20S,24,25-tetrahydrofusid-21-amide,

21-N-{2'-[bis(2'-aminoethyl)amino]ethyl}-16-desacetoxy-17R,20S,24,25-tetrahydrofusid-21-amide,

~~21-N-{2'-[bis(2'-aminoethyl)amino]ethyl}-13(17)-en-17,20,24,25-tetrahydrofusidan-21-carboxamide,~~

21-N-{2'-[bis(2'-aminoethyl)amino]ethyl}-3β- desacetoxy-17R,20S,24,25-tetrahydrofusid-21-amide,

~~21-N-{2'-[bis(2'-aminoethyl)amino]ethyl}-9(11)-en-17R,20S,24,25-tetrahydrofusid-21-amide,~~

~~24-N-{2'-[bis(2'-aminoethyl)amino]ethyl}-3α-hydroxy-5β-cholan-24-amide,~~

~~22-N-{2'-[bis(2'-aminoethyl)amino]ethyl}-23,24-bisnor-5-cholenic-22-amide,~~

21-N-{2'-[bis(2'-aminoethyl)amino]ethyl}-fusid-21-amide,

21-N-{3'-[bis(3'-aminopropyl)amino]propyl}-fusid-21-amide,

21-N-{2'-[bis(2'-aminoethyl)amino]ethyl}-3-OSO_3H-11-desoxy-17,20,24,25-tetrahydro-fusid-21-amide,

~~21-N-{2'-[bis(2'-aminoethyl)amino]ethyl}-3-OSO_3-11-desoxy-17,20,24,25-tetrahydro-fusid-21-amide,~~

21-N-{2'-[bis(2'-aminoethyl)amino]ethyl}-11-desoxy-16-desacetoxy-17S,20,24,25-tetrahydrofusid-21-amide,

21-N-{3'-[bis(3'-aminopropyl)amino]propyl}-17R,20S,24,25-tetrahydrofusid-21-amide,

~~22-N-{3'-[bis(3'-aminopropyl)amino]propyl}-23,24-bisnor-5-cholenic-22-amide,~~

21-N-{3'-[bis(3'-aminopropyl)amino]propyl}-}-3-OAc-17R,20S,24,25-tetrahydrofusid-21-amide,

21-N-{3'-[bis(3'-aminopropyl)amino]propyl}-}-3-$OSO_3\underline{H}$-11-desoxy-17,20,24,25-tetrahydrofusid-21-amide,

21-N-{3'-[bis(3'-aminopropyl)amino]propyl}-}-11-desoxy-16-desacetoxy-17S,20,24,25-tetrahydrofusid-21-amide,

3-N-{2'-[bis(2'-aminoethyl)amino]ethyl}-fusidic acid,

21-N-{3'-[(3'-aminopropyl)(methyl)amino]propyl}-17R,20S,24,25-tetrahydrofusid-21-amide,

21-N-{3'-[(3'-aminopropyl)(methyl)amino]propyl}-11-desoxy-17R,20S,24,25-tetrahydrofusid-21-amide,

21-N-{3'-[(3'-aminopropyl)(methyl)amino]propyl}-16-desacetoxy-17R,20S,24,25-tetrahydrofusid-21-amide,

~~24-N-{3'-[(3'-aminopropyl)(methyl)amino]propyl-3α-hydroxy-5β-cholan-24-amide,~~

21-N-{3'-[(3'-aminopropyl)(methyl)amino]propyl}-11desoxy-16-desacetoxy-17R,20S,24,25-tetrahydrofusid-21-amide,

~~3-N-{3'-[bis(3'-aminopropyl)amino]propyl}-fusidic acid,~~

3-N-{3'-[(3'-aminopropyl)(methyl)amino]propyl}-fusidic acid,

N'1'-{3-[(3-Amino-propyl)-ethyl-amino]-propyl}-N'1'-ethyl-propane-1,3-diamine,

N,N'-Bis-(3-amino-propyl)-N,N'-diethyl-butane-1,4-diamine,

N'1'-{3-[(3-Amino-propyl)-ethyl-amino]-propyl}-N'1'-ethyl-propane-1,3-diamine, and

N'1'-(3-Amino-propyl)-N'1'-(3-dimethylamino-propyl)-propane-1,3-diamine.

27. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to claim 1, optionally together with a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient or vehicle, and optionally other therapeutically active agents.

28. – 32. (Cancelled).

33. (Currently Amended) A method of ~~preventing or~~ treating a bacterial infection, the method comprising administering to a patient in need thereof an effective amount of a compound according to claim 1.

34.-37. (Cancelled).

38. (New) A compound according to claim 19, wherein R2 is –COOH.

39. (New) A composition according to claim 27, wherein said other therapeutically active agent is selected from the group consisting of penicillins, cephalosporins, tetracyclines, rifamycins,

erythromycins, lincomycin, clindamycin, flouroquinolones, corticosteroids, hydrocortosone and triamcinolone.

40. (New) A method according to claim 33, wherein said compound is administered simultaneously or sequentially with one or more other therapeutically active agents.

41. (New) A method according to claim 35, wherein said other terapeutically active agent is selected from the list consisting of penicillins, cephalosporins, tetracyclines, rifamycins, erythromycins, lincomycin, clindamycin, flouroquinolones, corticosteroids, hydrocortosone and triamcinolone.